



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/481,396	01/12/2000	Koichiro Tanaka	0756-2092	5586
31780	7590	04/22/2004	EXAMINER	
ERIC ROBINSON PMB 955 21010 SOUTHBANK ST. POTOMAC FALLS, VA 20165			RODRIGUEZ, ARMANDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2828	

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	09/481,396	TANAKA, KOICHIRO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Armando Rodriguez	2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,7-23 and 27-37 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 3,6 and 24-26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-18-2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 4-18-2004.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 10, filed January 8, 2004, with respect to claims 1,2,4-12,17-24,27-29,31-33 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1,2,4-12,17-24,27-29,31-33 has been withdrawn. Applicant has disqualified the recited prior art of Yamazaki under 35 USC 103 (c) by submitting a statement of the subject matter in the prior art and present application were commonly owned or subject to an obligation assignment to Semiconductor Energy Laboratory Co., Ltd.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment filed January 8, 2004 of independent claims 3 and 13 does not overcome the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection.

However, applicant's authorized examiner's amendment on January 16, 2004 of independent claim 13 overcomes the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection thereby the rejection of claims 13-16,35-37 is withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric J. Robinson on April 16, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

13. (Currently Amended) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:
a beam generating unit for emitting a laser beam such that a cross section of said laser beam extends in both width and longitudinal directions;
a cylindrical lens group for dividing said laser beam in said width direction, said cylindrical lens group comprising a number n of cylindrical lenses; [[and]]
an optical system for overlapping divided laser beams, and
a shielding member,
wherein the first and nth cylindrical lenses of the cylindrical lens group are shielded from the laser beam by the shielding member for making edges of the emitted laser beam straight lines extending in said longitudinal direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3,6,24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 3,

No structure has been recited within the claim language to provide the recited functional limitation of "shielded". Furthermore, the claim recites the cylindrical lenses shielded

from the laser beam, which implies preventing the laser beam from transmitting through the lenses.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1,2,4,5,7-23,27-37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After reviewing applicant's amendment, arguments and conducting an updated search none of the cited prior arts alone or in combination discloses the claimed laser irradiation apparatus having the recited limitations of independent claims 1,2,7,10 and 13, where the shape of the laser beam is modified before entering the cylindrical lens group for providing a uniform annealing laser beam.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Armando Rodriguez whose telephone number is 571-272-1952. The examiner can normally be reached on flex / M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Armando Rodriguez
Examiner
Art Unit 2828


Don Wong
Supervisor
Art Unit 2828

AR/DW